



National Transportation Safety Board

## The Chairman's Corner

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Friday, November 17, 2006

### **NTSB Warns That Runway Collisions Remain a Real Danger; Notes Progress on Drug/Alcohol Testing of Ship Crews**



Citing a serious near collision of two jumbo aircraft in Chicago last July, the National Transportation Safety Board, at a public meeting today, called again for effective action by the FAA to counter the danger posed by potentially catastrophic runway collisions. The Board was reviewing its Most Wanted List of safety improvements, a list that calls for action by federal agencies on the most critical transportation safety issues.

In the marine area, the Board welcomed the adoption of new rules by the U.S. Coast Guard that improve procedures for crew drug/alcohol testing after serious accidents, and removed this issue from the Most Wanted List. In its recommendations, the Board had cited 28 major marine investigations dating back to the Exxon Valdez in which mandatory post-accident alcohol and drug testing was not completed. The final Coast Guard rule was issued in December 2005, and seven of the eight recommendations were closed with acceptable action.

Expressing great disappointment at the FAA's continued refusal to take appropriate action, the Board also removed from the list a recommendation that children under two years of age be restrained on airliners for take off and landing and during periods of turbulence.

The NTSB added two new issue areas to the Most Wanted list: Air taxi crew resource management training and school bus occupant safety.

Established in 1990, the Most Wanted List highlights specific recommendations the Board believes would significantly reduce transportation deaths and injuries

In addition to pinpointing important safety issues, the Most Wanted List also rates agencies by the timeliness with which they act to implement the recommendations. At today's meeting, the Federal Aviation Administration received five unacceptable timeliness ratings, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration received two unacceptable timeliness ratings.

### **Vice Chairman Gives Keynote Address at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System**

On November 10 the Vice Chairman gave the keynote address at the 30th anniversary celebration of NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System in Santa Carlos, California.

ASRS was created after the December 1974 crash of a Trans World Airlines Boeing 727 in Berryville, Virginia. The organization collects, analyzes, and responds to voluntarily submitted aviation safety incident reports in order to lessen the likelihood of aviation accidents.

The Vice Chairman also presented a letter from Chairman Rosenker congratulating the ASRS and thanking the organization for assisting the NTSB on numerous investigations including the ASRS Study of Pilot Response to Unexpected Roll Events that was performed in connection with the NTSB's investigation into the crash of USAir flight 427.

During his address the Vice Chairman commented that "out of this tragedy comes triumph and tonight we celebrate triumph."



### **Loss Felt Throughout Aviation Community**

The aviation community lost one of its child restraint pioneers to cancer, earlier this week. Frances Wokes was Transport Canada's leader in addressing issues of aviation restraint. She worked very closely with FAA researchers at CAMI to test child restraint systems and develop standards for aviation restraints. The Board acknowledges her contribution to child restraint in aviation and sends our condolences to our colleagues at Transport Canada and to Frances' family.

## ***Member Hersman Participates in the Lexington Division of Police Annual Awards Banquet***

Member Hersman returned to Lexington, KY last week to participate in the Lexington Division of Police Annual Awards Banquet. She was the keynote speaker for approximately 800 law enforcement and civic officials and their spouses. Member Hersman was the Member On Scene at the crash of Comair Flight 5191 in Lexington last August. In her speech, she recognized the Lexington Police, the Lexington Fire Department, the Bluegrass Airport Emergency and Rescue squad, and a number of other state and local organizations for their cooperation and assistance at the on-scene portion of the accident investigation.



## ***NTSB Receives 4th Consecutive Clean Audit***

The National Transportation Safety Board is well noted for its work in investigating accidents, determining probable cause and issuing and implementing safety recommendations in all modes of transportation. We have the opportunity to recognize some of the efforts that may not be as well known.

For the fourth consecutive year, the National Transportation Safety Board's financial statements received an unqualified, or "clean," opinion from the Department of Transportation Inspector General. The results derive from an audit conducted on the Safety Board's financial statements for Fiscal Year 2006. In addition, the Board met the accelerated submission deadline of November 15th. The results of this audit prove our commitment to excellence in all phases of the Safety Board's operations. Congratulations to Steve Goldberg and the entire CFO Team.

The Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002 requires small agencies, such as the NTSB, to submit audited financial statements to the Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. The NTSB Reauthorization Act of 2000 gave the DOT/IG its audit oversight authority over the NTSB's financial management, property management and business operations.

## ***NTSB Acquisition to Represent Small Agencies on Government-wide Strategic Sourcing Initiative***

The Office of Administration, Acquisition Division (AD-20) will represent small agencies on the government-wide Wireless Strategic Sourcing initiative.

The NTSB is one of over 90 agencies that participate in the Small Agency Council (SAC), and AD-20 represents NTSB in the Procurement Committee. As a credit to the achievements and quality of work performed by NTSB's Acquisition Division, we were asked to represent the SAC on the government-wide Wireless Device and Services Strategic Sourcing Initiative.

Strategic Sourcing Initiatives are designed to take advantage of the federal government size to negotiate greater discounts. The NTSB joins DOD, NASA, GSA, DHS, DOE, and several other agencies tasked with soliciting and negotiating a government-wide contract for wireless devices and service.

## ***2007 NTSB Training Center Course Catalog Issued***



The National Transportation Safety Board has issued its 2007 Training Center Catalog for courses offered to the transportation safety community and Safety Board staff at its Training Center at Ashburn, Virginia.

"The courses to be offered in 2007 reflect the mission of the Training Center to provide unparalleled accident investigation training and transportation disaster assistance training," NTSB Chairman Mark V. Rosenker said. "Several of the courses such as 'Motorcoach, Bus and 15-Passenger Vans,' 'Accident Investigation Orientation,' 'Advanced Skills in Disaster Family Assistance,' and 'Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal Professionals' are available only at the NTSB Training Center. We are in the unique position to offer this training because of our vast experience and the credibility of our independent investigations. In addition to receiving state-of-the-art training,

participants will have the opportunity to network with others in their field from across the country, and often the world. Now is a good time to make training plans for 2007, because many courses are quickly sold out."

In addition to being a first-class Training Center, the facility is utilized by government agencies and public organizations for off-site activities.

The catalog containing detailed course descriptions, registration, and rental information is available on-line at <http://www.nts.gov/TC/trainingcenter.htm>